



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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FORMER SPRINGFIELD, VT POLICE OFFICER
PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD AND AGGRAVATED IDENTIFY THEFT

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Tom Colantuono, United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire, Peter Zegarac, Inspector in Charge of the Boston Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and David P. Cahill, Chief of the Sunapee, New Hampshire Police Department, today announced that **Robert D. Lagerstedt**, 36, of Claremont, New Hampshire pleaded guilty today to Mail Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft in U.S. District Court.

The charges allege that between February and April 2005, the defendant and his wife carried out a scheme to fraudulently acquire monies from Household Finance Corporation (HFC) using the United States mails, and the identities of other individuals. According to Court records, on March 29, 2005, the defendant, disguised in a wig, opened a checking account at Lake Sunapee Bank using another person's name, date of birth, and social security number. He deposited a \$10,450 check from HFC which represented the proceeds of a loan the defendant applied for in the victim's name. Bank personnel reported the suspicious transaction to the Sunapee Police Department, which alerted the victim whose identity had been used. Investigators later determined that a Post Office Box in Newport, NH where the HFC check was mailed, was opened in February 2005 by Lagerstedt's wife using another victim's identity.

Lagerstedt later attempted to withdraw \$8,750 from the account at the Newport branch of Lake Sunapee Bank. Once Postal Inspectors identified Lagerstedt as a suspect, it was discovered that he was employed as a Springfield, VT police officer. Officers from the department confirmed that bank surveillance photos appeared to show **Officer "Dan" Lagerstedt**, as he was known in the department. Lagerstedt has subsequently resigned from the Springfield Police Department.

— M O R E —

On April 18, 2005 an authorized search was conducted at the defendant's house in

Claremont, NH, which uncovered evidence including the Post Office box key and packaging materials for a wig of the kind worn by the subject depicted in the surveillance photos.

U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro has scheduled the case for sentencing on October 27, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. Lagerstedt faces a mandatory 2-year prison sentence for committing Aggravated Identity Theft, in addition to the sentence imposed on the Mail Fraud count.

Lagerstedt's wife, **Carolyn Lagerstedt**, has also been charged and is scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court in Concord, New Hampshire on August 28, 2005.

The case resulted from an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Sunapee Police Department, and Newport Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Gunnison.

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